

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 were presented for examination in the present application. The instant amendment cancels claims 3-4, 11-12, 16, and 19 without prejudice. Thus, claims 1-2, 5-10, 13-15, and 17-18 are presented for consideration upon entry of the instant amendment.

The specification has been amended to include a statement of relevance for prior cited French Patent No. 1,027,757, which is resubmitted herewith for consideration.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 14 and 18. Accordingly, claims 14 and 18 have been amended into independent form. Specifically, claim 14 has been amended to include elements of claim 12, while claim 18 has been amended to include elements of claims 12 and 16. Claims 12 and 16 have been cancelled. Claims 13, 15, and 17 have been amended to depend from allowable claims 14 and 18, respectively, and not cancelled claims 12 and 16. Thus, claims 13-15 and 17-18 are in condition for issuance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to claims 12-18 are respectfully requested.

Claims 11 and 19 have been cancelled rendering the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to claims 11 and 19 are respectfully requested.

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claim 9 has been amended to depend from claim 8, which is believed to render the rejection to claim 9 moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claim 9 are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 over U.S. Patent No. 6,196,429 to Cavdek et al. (Cavdek). Claims 1 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 over U.S. Patent No. 3,168,227 to Osmond (Osmond). Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Osmond.

Independent claim 1 now recites a third section that is “selectively releasably securable between said first and second sections so as to increase said predetermined three-dimensional shape and so that said first and second sections abut said third section to define a pair of said smooth mating lines (emphasis added)”.

Applicants respectfully submit that Cavdek and Osmond do not disclose or suggest a mannequin form that defines a predetermined three-dimensional shape that can be increased by selectively releasably securing a third section between first and second sections, while still providing smooth mating lines therebetween as now recited by claim 1.

Cavdek is directed to a method of producing a plurality of dress forms that have a very uniform size. However, the dress form of Cavdek is not adjustable. Rather, Cavdek discloses a plurality of plastic body panels 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60 that are supported by a chassis 10. The body panels 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60 are secured by staples or any convenient means to attachment tabs 49 of the chassis 10. Clearly, the stapled body panels of Cavdek do not disclose or suggest the third section that is “selectively releasably securable between said first and second sections so as to increase said predetermined three-dimensional shape” as now recited by claim 1.

However, Cavdek discloses shoulder members 38, 40 that can be telescoped to aid in putting on and removing garments. The shoulder members 38, 40 expand and contract pads 42, 44, which are hinged to chassis 10. Clearly, the hinged pads of Cavdek do not disclose or suggest the third section that is “selectively releasably securable between said first and second sections” so that “said first and second sections abut said third section to define a pair of said smooth mating lines” as now recited by claim 1.

Osmond merely discloses a doll mannequin with detachable components. However, none of the detachable components allow the predetermined three-

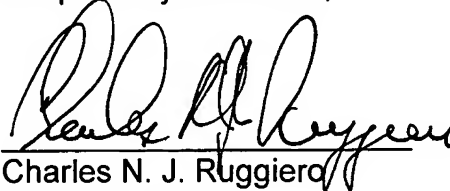
dimensional shape of the doll mannequin to be increased.

Therefore, claim 1 is not disclosed or suggested by Cadek or Osmond, alone or in combination. Accordingly, claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Claims 2 and 5-10 are also in condition for allowance for at least the reason that they depend from claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to claims 1-2 and 5-10 are respectfully requested.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Such action is solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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